



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 03/11/2008**

*Approved on March 25, 2008*

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008**  
**7:30 PM**

*School Committee:*

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Susan Lovelace, Chair</i>      | <i>Denise Burns</i> |
| <i>Sean Garballey, Vice Chair</i> | <i>Joe Curran</i>   |
| <i>Jeff Thielman, Secretary</i>   | <i>Sue Sheffler</i> |
| <i>Ronald Spangler</i>            |                     |

*Superintendent:*     *Nate Levenson*  
*Asst. Superintendent:* *Kathleen Bodie*  
*Chief Financial Off:* *Sue Mazzaella*  
*Interim Sp. Ed. Dir:*     *Gerald Kupperschmidt*  
*Student Rep*             *Callie McHugh*  
*Student Rep:*            *Bobby McWatters*

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*None*

**CONSENT AGENDA** — all items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

*\* Approval of the minutes from February 26, 2008*

*\*Approval of Warrant # 08117 dated February 26, 2008 amount of \$1,021,902.53*

*\*Approval of Job Descriptions*

- Elementary/Secondary Special Education Coordinator*
- Team Chair Special Education*
- School Psychologist*
- Early Childhood Coordinator*
- Behavior Support Personnel*
- Liaison Special Education*

*\*Approval of Honoring Retiring School Committee Members on March 25, 2008 at 7:00 pm*

*\*Approval of Organizational Meeting on April 8, 2008 at 7:00 pm*

*\*Approval That Essex Agricultural and Technical High School is Arlington's preferred school of choice for students who wish to pursue a program in Animal Science.*

**On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was voted to approved the consent agenda as noted with the removal of the Essex Agricultural and Technical High School item for further discussion.**

**Vote 7:0 unanimous**

### **RECOGNITION**

Ms. Lovelace congratulated Sean Garballey on his recent election win as state rep for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex District.

Ms. Lovelace also congratulated the following sports teams and students who were chosen as GBL all stars.

**Gymnastics:** Livy Baldwin, Brooke Anderson, Claudia Cuddy were chosen all stars.

**Girls Hockey:** Kelly Curran, Rebecca O'Quinn and Kim Hayward were all conference while Emily Sullivan and Kyle Sullivan, Victoria Messuri and Amelia Dinnen were chosen as all stars.

**Boys Hockey:** made tournament and the chosen All stars-Mike Bartlett, Joe Fimiani, Pat Doherty, Ryan Sheehan, Rich Gallagher, and Dan Styffe - All league were Sheehan and Styffe.

**Wrestlers:** won the GBL Gus Fahey, Matt Curran, Greg Kita, Matt Willey, Pat Cronin Brian Flynn and Matt Willey advanced to states.

**Boys track team:** Anthony Taylor was chosen as a league all-star.

**Girls track team:** finished with an overall record of 3-2-1. All stars include Carolyn Malter, Zoe Greenberg, Catherine Harrington and Emily Chicoyay.

**Girls basketball team** improved each night and almost made the D 2 tournament, Emily Pillemer and Cherle Flynn were chosen as all stars.~

**Boys Basketball team** made the tournament with a great finish winning 5 of their last seven. All stars include Brain Emerson and Bobby Reeves

As always our hockey and basketball **cheerleaders** did a great job.

Ms. Lovelace acknowledged Mr. Curran as he was honored Coach of the Year from Woburn High School.

## **CONSENT AGENDA (Con't)**

After a brief explanation by Superintendent Levenson and Ms. Mazzarella, Mr. Spangler motioned to approve that Essex Agricultural and Technical High School as Arlington's preferred school of choice for students who wish to pursue a program in Animal Science with Ms. Burns seconded the motion.

Vote 7:0 unanimous

## **SCHOOL BUDGET DISCUSSION**

**Mr. Spangler Moved:** That the School Committee adopt as its fiscal year 2009 budget:

The Draft Proposal submitted to us by the Superintendent on February 12, with the changes described in the "Second Priority" category of the Budget Proposal, Draft 2 dated March 6. Ms. Burns seconded the motion for discussion:

These changes reflect Arlington's priorities as a community that values its children.

The changes to the February 12<sup>th</sup> Draft include the following "add-backs" and other additions. Among the choices in Draft 2, these are the essential components of a budget that enables us to continue moving the district forward.

1. Restore five (5) elementary teachers at Brackett, Hardy, Stratton, Thompson and Bishop, add one (1) elementary teacher at Dallin, and add one (1) new kindergarten teacher, based on projected enrollment.
2. Restore one (1) English teacher and 0.4 Math teacher at Arlington High School.
3. Restore ½ of the cuts to professional development for teachers, which is our "R&D investment" in the future success of our district.
4. Restore ½ of the data analyst position, to continue making data easier for teachers to use to improve student learning.
5. Restore ½ of the Principal support.

These changes also include the following fee increases (in addition to the across-the-board 5% inflation adjustment factored into the February 12<sup>th</sup> Draft Proposal). These increases are in line with the community input we've received, and they distribute the burden equitably.

1. A 30% increase in the lunch fee to, for example, \$3 at the elementary level
2. An increase in the full-day kindergarten fee to \$2,400
3. An increase in the elementary instrumental music fee to \$425
4. An increase in the high school athletics fee of \$25 for each of the first two sports

Along with these changes, the per-family cap on fees (exclusive of lunch, full day kindergarten, and the Bishop bus) will be raised to \$850.

The School Committee remains firmly committed to our policy that no student would ever be denied access to programs or activities because of an inability to pay.

Mr. Curran suggested Superintendent Levenson slash Administrative personnel as an alternative of cutting teachers and requested waiting on taking a vote on this budget for another two week.

*Ms. Sheffler disagreed with Mr. Curran and noted the Administrative positions had been reduced two years ago.*

*Ms. Burns acknowledged that we have a one-time fix for many items this year and next year we will have to increase fees again and continue with making cuts and suggested an amendment to Mr. Spangler's motion.*

***Ms. Burns would like to amend to restore only #1 and #2 only of Mr. Spangler's motion and keep the savings from items 3,4,5 as reserve money, with Mr. Curran seconded this motion.***

***Mr. Garballey would like to amend Denise's motion and would like to add in to restore #4, the ½ time data analyst position and Ms. Burns accepted the friendly amendment.***

*Mr. Thielman, Ms. Sheffler, and Ms. Lovelace appreciates the discussion and will not support the amended motion but will support Mr. Spangler's original motion.*

***Vote 3:4 with Ms. Burns, Mr. Curran and Mr. Garballey voting yes to the amended motion.***

***The vote is on Mr. Spangler's original motion to move that the School committee adopt as its fiscal year 2009 budget The Draft Proposal submitted to us by the Superintendent on February 12, with the changes described in the "Second Priority" category of the Budget Proposal, Draft 2 dated March 6.***

***Vote: 5:2 with Ms. Burns and Mr. Curran voting No,  
Motion passes***

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

*Superintendent Levenson presented his report and noted that the Department of Education began its regularly scheduled three-year mid-cycle review with the Special Education Department. This was a scaled down version of the every six-year program review. Nate also noted that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders visited Arlington High School last week and the transition for the children went well with cooperation from staff and students at both the Ottoson and High School.*

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

*Mr. Thielman reported on the upcoming concert at Town Hall, March 14, 2008.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Mr. Spangler reported on the Art Night at Stratton School on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.*

*Mr. Curran thanked and congratulated Sean Garballey and Susan Lovelace on there three years of service on the School Committee.*

*Ms. Lovelace thanked the Arlington Community for all their support on the Thompson School International Festival event that was held last week with 40 countries being represented.*

***On a motion by Ms. Burns and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was voted and approved to move the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee to look at moving the cost center for Legal expenses out of the operating budget and into its own line item so that any monies being moved into the legal line item have to receive the approval of the school committee and have the subcommittee report back to the full committee by the end of April.***

***Vote: 7:0 unanimous***

***On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was voted and approved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.***

***Vote 7:0***

***Submitted by  
Karen M. Fitzgerald  
Arlington School Committee  
Administrative Assistant***